

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE) LXXXIX.

A NEW GENUS, BLAKEANTHUS

R. M. King and H. Robinson
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

A new genus is described here for a single Central American species that has been placed in Alomia and which superficially resembles Ageratum. A revision of the complex has shown the species to be very distinctive in many significant details. The genus is named after Dr. Sidney Fay Blake, the author of the species.

The species has resided in Alomia as part of an overly broad concept and has no evident relationship to that genus as redefined. The smaller number of flowers, the plane receptacle with some paleae, the indurated phyllaries, the achene with only a few glands and spicules and the symmetrical carpopodium are all different from Alomia. Closer relationship seems to be with Ageratum but that genus has conical receptacles, very strong annular thickenings in the cells of the anther collars, usually asymmetrical carpopodia, usually densely long papillose style branches, and very distinct glandular punctations in the surface of the leaves. The degree of difference between Ageratum and Blakeanthus is particularly significant in view of the great uniformity of most of these features throughout the many species of Ageratum.

The similar habit and phyllaries as well as common centers of geographical distribution suggest that Blakeanthus is closely related to Ageratum. Still, the scarcely ornamented walls of the anther collar cells of Blakeanthus are very different from those of known genera in the Ageratum-Gyptoid-Piqueria series. On the basis of the one characteristic we would provisionally place the new genus in the separate Critonioid series where it is distinct from all but one species of Koanophyllon by the lack of a pappus.

The leaf pubescence in Blakeanthus is of particular interest for the variety of hairs and glands. Any small area of the lower leaf surface shows completely intermixed short-stalked glands, long-stalked glands of a slightly different color, and still longer non-glandular hairs. In no case are the short-stalked glands as large or as sunken into the surface as in Ageratum.

Blakeanthus R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Frutices erecti usque ad 2 m alti multo ramosi. Caules teretes hirsuti. Folia opposita longe petiolata, laminis ovatis basi truncatis vel cordatis utrinque pilosis subtus pilis

densioribus, glandulis minutis plerumque sessilis aliquot longe stipitatis. Inflorescentiae glomerato-corymbosae. Involucris squamae ca. 20 subimbricatae subaequilongae lanceolatae rigide chartaceae viridis parce pilosae; receptacula plana vel concava paleacea, paleis phyllariaeformis. Flores ca. 25 in capitulo; corollae anguste infundibulares, lobis brevibus vix longioribus quam latioribus extus glanduliferis; filamenta antherarum in parte superiore angusta, cellulis inferne subquadratis vel oblongis superne elongatis, parietibus inornatis vel leniter annulate ornatis, appendicibus vix longioribus quam latioribus; styli inferne non nodulosi, appendicibus linearibus subpapillosis; achaenia prismatica 5-costata plerumque glabra ad apicem glandulifera; carpopodia breviter subcylindrica basi rotundata, cellulis parvis irregulariter subquadratis multiseriatis; parietibus tenuis; pappus nullus.

Species typica: Alomia cordata S.F.Blake

The genus contains the following species.

Blakeanthus cordatus (Blake) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov.
Alomia cordata Blake, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 60:41. 1947.
Guatemala, Honduras.

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